

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2537

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 9954

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, BR

SUBJECT: SILVEIRA'S QUERY ON STATUS OF BRAZILIAN REQUEST FOR AIR-
WORTHINESS CERTIFICATING AGREEMENT

REF: BRASILIA 3427

1. ON NOVEMBER 12, DURING AND EXCHANGE OF STATEMENTS OF GRATIFICATION THAT THE JUST-CONCLUDED BILATERAL CIVIL AVIATION CONSULTATIONS HAD TURNED OUT SATISFACTORILY, FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA ASKED ME WHETHER THE GOB COULD EXPECT A FAVORABLE ANSWER SOON TO ITS REQUEST FOR THE CONCLUSION OF AN AGREEMENT ON THE RECIPROCAL ACCEPTANCE OF AIRWORTHINESS CERTIFICATES.

2. I REPLIED THAT I HAD LOOKED INTO THIS MATTER DURING MY CONSULTATIONS AND HAD ASCERTAINED THA THE MATTER WAS MOVING ALONG. I NOTED SPECIFICALLY THAT FAA TECHNICIANS WERE EXAMINING PROGRESS MADE BY CTA (THE AERO-SPACE TECHNICAL CENTER, THE GOB EXECUTIVE AGENT) IN ORGANIZING ITSELF TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUCH AN AGREEMENT.

3. SILVEIRA COMMENTED THAT HE HOPED THAT RAPID PROGRESS COULD BE MADE INASMUCH AS THIS WAS A PARTICULARLY USEFUL AND IMPORTANT AREA OF COLLABORATION.

4. COMMENT: THE DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT SILVEIRA HIMSELF, AT THE REQUEST OF THE MINISTER OF AERONAUTICS, PRESENTED TO ME THE NOTE REQUESTING THE AGREEMENT (BRASILIA 3427, MAE 5, 1975).

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THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT BUT THAT THE QUESTION IS AN IMPORTANT ONE TO

THE GOB AND PARTICULARLY TO THE AIR MINISTRY, WHERE WE HAVE BEEN
HAVING PROBLEMS, SOME OF THEM INTRACTABLE, ON THE F-5
PURCHASE. I AM PERSUADED THAT THE CONCLUSION OF THE AGREEMENT
WOULD BE AN IMPORTANT POSTIVE STEP IN THE RELATIONSHIP--
AT A TIME WHEN FEW ARE IN SIGHT. IT INVOLVES OUR WILLINGNESS
TO ASSIST BRAZIL IN UPGRADING ITS TECHNOLOGY, EXPANDING ITS
INDUSTRIAL BASE, AND GAINING PRESITIGE AS AN INTERMEDIATE
COUNTRY MOVING INTO THE LEAGUE OF THE ADVANCED COUNTRIES.
I KNOW THAT THERE ARE SOME MISGIVINGS AROUND WASHINGTON
ABOUT COMPETITION FROM BRAZIL, BUT UNLESS WE ARE PREPARED TO
CLOSE ALLDOORS ON LEGITIMATE BRAZILIAN ASPIRATION, I URGE
THAT WORK ON THE AGREEMENT BE ACCELERATED. THE SIGNATURE OF
THE AGREEMENT, WHICH COULD CONCEIVABLY OCCUR DURING A VISIT
BY THE SECRETARY, COULD HAVE BENEFITS FOR GOB-US
RELATIONS DISPROPORTIONATE TO THE INTRINSIC IMPORTANCE OF
THE AGREEMNT--IF ONLY BY STANDING IN CONTRAST TO IMPASSES
OR SEVERE DIFFICULTIES IN OTHER ECONOMIC SECTORS.
CRIMMINS

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